

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3**  
**Columbia River Compact Hearing**  
**May 4, 2011**

<i><b>Fisheries under Consideration:</b></i> Non-treaty commercial shad
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Stock Status

- Adult shad returns to the Columbia River have exceeded one million fish annually since the late 1970's. Returns peaked in 2005 with Bonneville Dam passage of 6.5 million but have since declined to 1.3 million in 2010.

Non-Treaty Area 2S Commercial Shad Fishery

- The 2S commercial shad fishery is open annually under permanent rule from May 10-June 20 in the area from light #50 upstream to Beacon Rock.
- Open hours are 3-10 PM daily Monday-Friday (except Memorial Day).
- Staff has had several requests to delay the start and/or extend the end date of the fishery because adult returns appear to be arriving later and for market issues.
- Staff thought it would be best to delay the decision until later in the run.

Washougal Reef Commercial Shad Fishery

- The Washougal Reef commercial fishery has not been open since 2005 due to lack of interest/participation.
- At the February 8, 2011 Compact Hearing, a request was made to reopen this fishery for 2011. There has also been increased interest in pursuing shad fishing this year.
- Due to the physical characteristics of this small area and limited effort, no salmonids are expected to be handled in this fishery.

<i><b>Recommendation – Washougal Reef Commercial Shad</b></i>	
Season:	3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday (except on the observed Memorial Day holiday), from May 10 through June 20, 2011.
Area:	Waters of Zones 4-5 inside a line commencing at the white six-second equal-interval light approximately ¾ miles east of the Washougal Woolen Mill pipeline and projected westerly to the Washougal blinker light, thence to the four-second blinker light on the east end of Lady Island, thence easterly and along the shoreline of Lady Island to the State Highway 14 Bridge, thence easterly across the State Highway 14 Bridge to the mainland.
Gear:	Single-wall, unslackened, floater gill net; 5⅜"-6¼" mesh size restrictions; and a 30-lb maximum breaking strength.
Allowable Sales:	Only shad may be kept and sold. All salmon, walleye, and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water.

### Experimental Gear Permit

- Under Oregon permanent rules (Oregon Administrative Rule 635-006-0020 and Oregon Regulatory Statute 508.106), an experimental gear permit may be issued for the taking of food fish.
- In response to an application received earlier this year, staff intends to issue an experimental gear permit for the 2011 season to allow use of a purse seine to harvest shad during May 16-July 15 near Skamokawa, WA.
- Under conditions of the permit, sale of shad would be allowed but that requires a temporary rule be adopted in both Oregon and Washington.
- Staff plans to monitor fishing activities (effort, catch rates, incidental handle, etc.) which will provide information on the suitability of purse seine gear as a tool for harvesting shad in addition to obtaining information on catch of other species during the summer timeframe.

<i>Staff Recommendation – Non-Treaty Commercial Shad</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Joint Staff is recommending that the language for non-Indian commercial shad fisheries be amended by temporary rule to include the following language:  <b><u>Shad may also be taken and sold for commercial purposes with experimental fishing gears. A permit issued by the State of Oregon as described in Oregon Administrative Rule 635-006-0020 is required to use experimental gear types for shad. Allowable gears, methods, locations and authorized participants will be specified in the permit. Any salmon, steelhead or non-target species taken as incidental catch in operation of such gear shall immediately, with care and the least possible injury, be released and transferred to the water without violence.</u></b></li></ul>

- Salmonid impacts associated with this experimental gear permit will be applied to take limitations reserved for research, monitoring, and evaluation.

### **Future Meetings**

- A Joint State hearing has been scheduled for May 4 (today) at 3 PM to review the recreational spring Chinook fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Oregon/Washington border.